

Council on Postsecondary Education
May 19, 2003

University of Louisville
Installation of Artificial Turf
At Papa John's Cardinal Stadium

Action: The staff recommends that the council approve the University of Louisville's request to install artificial turf at Papa John's Stadium. The project was authorized by the 2003 General Assembly to be installed on the football practice field at a cost of \$750,000.

The University of Louisville proposes to install artificial turf at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium to provide the football program an opportunity to prepare more competitively for teams whose home fields are artificial surfaces. The university had originally planned to test the surface on the practice field; however, based on the recent experiences of the industry, it was decided to forgo the intermediate step of installing it first on the practice field.

The council has the statutory responsibility to review and approve postsecondary education capital construction projects costing \$400,000 or more regardless of fund source. Because the estimated cost of this project exceeds the \$400,000 threshold, the council and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee must approve the project before it is initiated.

The 2003 General Assembly authorized a \$750,000 capital project to install artificial turf on a UofL practice football field. The university proposes instead to install the turf at the main football field at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. The project retains its primary focus, which is to install artificial turf.

The university has certified that all funds are available to complete the project, and will be provided by the University of Louisville Athletic Association. When the installation is completed, the annual operations and maintenance cost also will come from athletic funds.

At its May 20 meeting, the General Assembly's Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee will review the UofL request to move the site of the project

to Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. The committee staff has requested that the council review the project prior to the review by the committee.

Following council action, the staff will notify the secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee.